

**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
OFFICE OF WATER QUALITY – NPDES PERMIT SECTION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND DRAFT NPDES RENEWAL
WITH STREAMLINED MERCURY VARIANCE AND
ALTERNATE THERMAL EFFLUENT LIMITS**

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. 2015 – 7H - RDPH
HEARING DATE: September 2, 2015

DATE OF NOTICE: July 29, 2015
RESPONSE DATE: September 14, 2015

Applicant: U.S. STEEL CORPORATION GARY WORKS, NPDES Permit No. IN0000281, One North Broadway, Gary, Indiana 46402, LAKE COUNTY.

I. Type of Application: On September 2, 2014, U.S. Steel Gary Works submitted a NPDES permit renewal application including requests for SMV and ATEL renewal.

II. Facility Operations: The permittee has requested Alternate Thermal Effluent Limitations as allowable by Clean Water Act Section 316(a) to three monitoring points which are located on the Grand Calumet River. U.S. Steel owns and operates the largest integrated steel mill in North America, with capacity to produce over eight million tons of raw steel per year. Intermediate and final products include coke, sinter, iron, raw steel, cast steel, plate, hot strip, cold rolled strip, and coated steels. The facility withdraws water from Lake Michigan and has thirteen (13) outfalls actively discharging a combined average of 299 MGD to the Grand Calumet River and four (4) outfalls that discharge a combined average of 183 MGD to Lake Michigan.

Streamlined Mercury Variance (SMV):

The permittee requests renewal of the SMV for Outfalls 005, 015, 018, 019, 020, 028/030, and 034. The SMV establishes a streamlined process for obtaining a variance from a water quality criterion used to establish a WQBEL for mercury in a NPDES permit. Each SMV application includes a Pollutant Minimization Program Plan (PMPP), which addresses the identification and minimization of mercury discharges to the environment from the permitted facility in accordance with 327 IAC 5-3.5-9. The issued permit will include the requirements of the applicant's PMPP and interim discharge limits for mercury calculated based on the procedures of 327 IAC 5-3.5-8. The SMV will remain in effect until the NPDES permit expires under IC 13-14-8-9.

Alternate Thermal Effluent Limitations (ATEL): As part of this permit renewal, IDEM proposes to continue to allow Alternate Thermal Effluent Limitations for Outfalls 005, 020, and 030 in accordance with Section 316(a) of the Clean Water Act and 327 IAC 5-7. Compliance with the temperature limitations is determined 100 feet downstream from each outfall, identified as monitoring points 205, 220, and 230 respectively. All data submitted by the applicant are available as part of the administrative record for public inspection during office hours. In the absence of approved ATEL, the water quality based effluent limits would apply.

Water Quality Based Effluent Limitation Table

<u>Month</u>	<u>Temp (°F)</u>	<u>Temp (°C)</u>
Jan	50	10
Feb	50	10
Mar	60	15.6
Apr	70	21.1
May	80	26.7
Jun	90	32.2
Jul	90	32.2
Aug	90	32.2
Sep	90	32.2
Oct	78	25.5
Nov	70	21.1
Dec	57	14

Alternative Thermal Effluent Limitation Table
Maximum In-stream Water Temperatures (°F)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Monthly Average</u>	<u>Daily Maximum</u>
January	----	59
February	----	58
March	----	69
April	----	73
May	----	83
June	90	93
July	90	93
August	90	93
September	90	93
October	----	83
November	----	75
December	----	63

III. Tentative Determination: On the basis of preliminary staff review and application of pertinent standards and regulations, IDEM proposes to issue the renewal for NPDES Permit No. IN0000281 which will impose certain effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, and special conditions. The permit term is for no more than five years.

IV. Hearing Information: IDEM has scheduled a public hearing concerning the draft permit for Wednesday September 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. (central time), at Ivy Tech Community College Northwest, Multipurpose Room, 1440 East 35th Avenue, Gary, IN 46409. The purpose of the hearing is to allow public participation in the determination of the terms and conditions of the NPDES permit. Interested parties should submit written or oral comments to the IDEM representatives at the time of the meeting.

V. Special Considerations: Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations for this hearing must contact the IDEM-ADA Coordinator at 100 N. Senate Ave., Rm 1322N, (317) 233-4200, or via the Indiana Relay Service at (800)743-3333, at least 72 hours prior to the hearing.

VI. Comment Period and Procedures for the Formulation of Final Determination: In accordance with rule 327 IAC 5-3.5-5., IDEM is required to public notice the complete SMV application and solicit public comment. The proposed determination to issue the NPDES permit renewal with the SMV and ATEL is tentative. Comments not submitted at the public hearing must be received/postmarked at IDEM no later than September 14, 2015 to be considered in the formulation of the Final Determination. Anyone wishing notification of the Final Determination on this permit must provide written contact information to IDEM staff at the public hearing or during the specified comment period. Notice of Final Permit action will not be made to persons who fail to comment on the draft permit or fail to request such notice. Deliver or mail all written requests to IDEM- Office of Water Quality/ Permits Branch/Industrial NPDES Permits Section, Attention Nikki Gardner, MC 65-42 IGCN Rm 1255, 100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2251. Or email comments to ngardner@idem.IN.gov; phone: (800) 451-6027 x 28707, local (317) 232-8707.

VII. Additional Information: All related documents are on file & may be inspected at the IDEM Office of Water Quality/ Permits Branch/Industrial NPDES Permits Section, 12th floor/Rm 1203, 100 N. Senate Ave, Indpls., IN from 9 - 4, M - F, (copies 10¢ per page). The permit is also available for public access at the following IDEM's Northwest Regional Office, and on IDEM's Web Site at <http://in.gov/idem/cleanwater/2480.htm>. Please tell others whom you think might be interested in this matter.